

## Comment Form

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## STATE DEPARTMENT

Title: Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption; Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000; Accreditation of Agencies; Approval of Persons; Preservation of Convention Records; Extension of Comment Period  
Subject Category: Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000: Hague Convention-- Agency accreditation and person approval

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Comments Due: December 15, 2003

Phase: PROPOSED RULES

How To Comment:

Commenters may send hard copy submissions or comments in electronic format. Commenters sending only hard copies must send an original and two copies referencing docket number State/AR-01/96 or State/AR-01/98 to: U.S. Department of State, CA/OCS/PRI, Adoption Regulations Docket Room, SA-29, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20520. Hard copy comments may also be sent by overnight courier services to: U.S. Department of State, CA/OCS/PRI, Adoption Regulations Docket Room, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20520. Do not personally hand deliver comments to the Department of State. Comments referencing the docket number State/AR-01/96 or State/AR-01/98 may be submitted electronically to [adoptionregs@state.gov](mailto:adoptionregs@state.gov). Two hard copies of the comments submitted electronically must be mailed under separate cover as well. Electronic comments must be made in the text of the message or submitted as a Word file avoiding the use of any form of encryption or use of special characters. If you submit comments by hard copy rather than electronically, include a disk with the submission if possible. Hard copy submissions without an accompanying disk file, however, will be accepted.

Your comment has been sent. To verify that this agency has received your comment, please contact the agency directly. If you wish to retain a copy of your comment, print out a copy of this document for your files.

Please note your REGULATIONS.GOV number.

Regulations.gov #: EREG - 6

Date Submitted: Dec 14, 2003

|                             |            |             |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|
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US

## Comment

To whom it may concern: I am writing to protest the current regulations of the Hague Convention Treaty. As a parent of two internationally adopted children, I am extremely concerned about the ultimate outcome of enforcing these rigorous regulations. Our son was adopted from Vietnam in 2001 just prior to US citizens not being issued orphan visas for these children. Our daughter was adopted from Morocco this year and at 6 weeks old only weighed between 5 and 6 pounds. She would not have survived the conditions there. The thousands of orphaned and needy children who long to be joined with a family in the United States can only be hurt. I need not underscore the fact that there are 1500 orphanages in China, and an infant mortality rate of 51% in Guatemala. Cambodia is the third poorest country in the world and Haiti is second. These are just a few of the countries that have waiting children who would benefit from adoption. I realize that your efforts are implemented in the name of the best interests of the children; however, there are some other salient issues at stake, but most importantly the CHILDREN. On paper this looks ideal, however the realities of the Hague Treaty if implemented as written will only create a monopoly for a few larger agencies when there are many smaller agencies that have successfully completed adoptions for many years. These agencies have met the needs of individuals in smaller cities and areas. A majority of people pursuing international adoption will not be able to use their local agency. Simply stated, these smaller agencies will not be able to survive financially. Fees for international adoption will be off the charts and create a situation where only a few wealthier individuals will be able to pursue this option. If only persons with a master's in Social Work are permitted to complete homestudies, the costs and wait times associated with getting a homestudy will be drastically increased. As a result of fewer agencies, the waiting lists for adoption will grow. There will be growing lists of "waiting parents" and "waiting children". As it is now there are many more children available for international adoption than there are "waiting parents" unlike domestic adoption programs who have long waiting lists for children. There are certainly no comparable laws to regulate domestic adoption, and therefore families who choose international adoption are discriminated against with the implementation of the Hague. How will the children benefit from this? This Central Authority designation of the proposed regulations will create more government and not less. I was under the impression that one of the goals of our current administration was to create a more efficient and less intrusive government. Had these regulations been law when I adopted in 2001 and in 2003, I would have suffered hardships. With one out of five couples experiencing infertility and domestic adoption an extremely limited option, these regulations can only make the dream of becoming parents a fantasy. Please reconsider these regulations and please do it in the NAME OF THE CHILDREN. I thank you for hearing my heartfelt concerns. Sincerely, Melissa R. Ewing [missy@worldwideadoption.org](mailto:missy@worldwideadoption.org) Home 864-473-2113 Work 864-583-6981 Fax 864-583-0150